

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3013

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 2854

USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2132

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, EGEN, ELAB, KU

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY CENSUS RESULTS

1. PRELIMINARY RESULTS 1975 KUWAIT CENSUS WHICH CONDUCTED LAST MONTH HAVE BEEN RELEASED. CURRENT POPULATION JUST UNDER 1 MILLION; IT IS 990,389, AN INCREASE OF 36 PER CENT OVER LAST PREVIOUS CENSUS CONDUCTED IN 1971 WHEN TOTAL POPULATION WAS 725,000. NON-KUWAITIS REMAIN IN MAJORITY, COMPRISING 52.6 PER CENT OF POPULATION (521,269). TOTAL ETHNIC KUWAITI POPULATION IS 469,120. DETAILS OF CENSUS ARE EXPECTED TO BE MADE PUBLIC SHORTLY, BUT PRELIMINARY FIGURES SHOW MALE/FEMALE BREAKDOWN FOR NON-KUWAITIS TO BE 59 PER CENT MALE/41 PER CENT FEMALE, COMPARED TO ALMOST EXACT 50/50 BREAKDOWN FOR KUWAITIS.

2. COMMENT: PRELIMINARY CENSUS FIGURES INDICATE THAT NON-KUWAITIS ARE STILL MAJORITY OF POPULATION, AND SINCE ILLEGAL ALIENS UNLIKELY TO HAVE BEEN COUNTED, NON-KUWAITIS PROBABLY ACCOUNT FOR LARGER PORTION OF POPULATION THAN STATISTICS SHOW. LARGE MALE ELEMENT AMONG NON-KUWAITIS REFLECTS FACT THAT MANY MALE WORKERS

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ARE HERE WITHOUT FAMILIES, AND INDEED SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF NON-

KUWAITI FEMALES ARE WOMEN, SUCH AS INDIAN SERVANTS, WHO ARE ALSO
HERE WITHOUT FAMILIES. ALTHOUGH PRELIMINARY REPORT DOES NOT DISCUSS
TRENDS, APPEARS THAT POPULATION WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AS FOREIGN
WORKERS ARE BROUGHT IN TO BUILD AND RUN SEVERAL LARGE NEW
PROJECTS PRESENTLY GETTING UNDERWAY. COUNTERING THIS TREND, HOWEVER,
WILL BE OFFICIAL POLICIES AIMED AT REDUCING INFLOW OF IMMIGRANTS
AND DEPARTURE OF SOME EXPATRIATES WHO SEEK MORE ATTRACTIVE
OPPORTUNITIES ELSEWHERE IN REGION. THIS SET OF DEVELOPMENTS IS
VERY CLOSELY RELATED TO MANPOWER PROBLEMS FACING KUWAIT, AND
GENERAL MANPOWER PROBLEM THAT EXISTS IS PROBABLY SINGLE MOST
IMPORTANT BRAKE ON KUWAITI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

MAU

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